

HONORING RALPH AND ROBERT BROWN FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, brothers Ralph and Robert Brown. Ralph and Robert will be attempting a 2nd Guinness World Record this summer by sailing non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from Tampa, Florida to Hamburg, Germany to raise funds for Wounded Warrior Foundations.

In 2007, Ralph and Robert set their first Guinness World Record for the "longest non-stop ocean voyage in a flats boat" traveling from North Carolina to Bermuda and back to New York in a 21-foot open fishing boat of their own design. This voyage garnered a great deal of publicity and convinced the brothers to use this notoriety to raise money for Wounded Warriors Organizations in the future. Ralph and Robert will be using the publicity from their second voyage to raise money for six Wounded Warrior and Disabled Veterans Organizations, having set a goal of \$3 million.

In 1980, former Marine Ralph Brown was placed on the roster to liberate the American Embassy in Iran during the hostage takeover. However, at the last minute Ralph's group was replaced by another group of soldiers, out of which three men were killed. Mr. Brown and his brother have since dedicated their lives to honoring the lives of these three soldiers and their many other brave countrymen.

Madam Speaker, Ralph and Robert Brown truly are doing more than just saying "thanks," by raising money and awareness for our nation's wounded warriors. And they are doing so in one of the most original manners possible.

CONGRATULATING DONEISHA BROWN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening the Michelle Mitzvah Group and the Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple of Mahwah will bestow their LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship upon an outstanding young woman, Doneisha Brown. Doneisha is a graduating senior at Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, where she is ranked in the top 5 percent of her class. During her time at Eastside, Doneisha was active in the PEER Leadership Program, a student-run organization that helps incoming freshmen acclimate to a high school setting. PEER seeks to create a positive, reaffirming community by creating small support groups that cut across class divides, and by standing up against physical, emotional, and psychological bullying. Along with contributing to this very important organization, Doneisha is a scholar athlete, having competed in track and field and girl's softball.

The Michelle Mitzvah Group was founded by Marc Applebaum as a living memorial to

his daughter Michelle, who succumbed to leukemia. The Michelle Mitzvah Group seeks to practice the Jewish covenant of Mitzvah through "hands-on projects," such as ministering at children's hospitals, food banks, and homeless shelters. The Group also raises money for charities, sponsors blood drives, and collects items for our wounded veterans. Three years ago, Nathan LeBron partnered with the Michelle Mitzvah Group to form the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund. Nathan is a cancer survivor who grew up in a dysfunctional home and was mentored by Marc Applebaum. With the love and support of individuals such as Marc, Nathan went on to graduate from SUNY Albany and Harvard University. Nathan formed the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund to help other promising-yet-disadvantaged youths in receiving the help and guidance they require to go on to college or technical school.

Doneisha Brown is an exceptional student and role model for her peers. I am proud of her accomplishments, and expect great things from her as she continues her education. I am also proud of the Michelle Mitzvah Group and Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple on helping make a college education possible for Ms. Brown. Through this scholarship and countless other acts of selfless service, the individuals involved have made their community a better place. I wish all the very best in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall 289—"yea"; Rollcall 290—"yea"; Rollcall 291—"nay".

YARITZA HUERTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yaritza Huerta, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yaritza Huerta is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yaritza Huerta is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Yaritza Huerta for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career in her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. WALLY AND MARY GROTZ ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Wally and Mary Grotz of Delano, Minnesota, on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. For the last sixty years, they have raised four children and lived in the homestead Wally built while the town of Delano grew into a city. But this is no ordinary couple; they are some of America's "Greatest Generation" and both have tremendous wisdom to share from their personal histories.

Wally was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II and at one point served under American film legend, Jimmy Stewart. But Wally's story goes much deeper. He was shot down over Germany in 1944 and taken as a Prisoner of War until May of 1945. When he returned home he found a job at the local post office where he worked for 34 years, serving as Postmaster for 16 years.

Mary spent her time working for Minnesota-based food producer, General Mills. Her job was as unique as she is; she answered cooking and baking questions as Betty Crocker, the General Mills kitchen icon. She still remains active in her church and the Delano community today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Wally and Mary Grotz. Their accomplishments as individuals and dedicated citizens would be enough to warrant recognition, but the love and devotion they have shown to one another sweetens their story as American heroes. I wish them a happiest anniversary and another sixty years together!

IN HONOR OF GERALD OEHLER, M.D.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, for more than 50 years, Dr. Gerald Oehler has dedicated his life and his work to the care and well being of his patients. Born January 29, 1933 in Harvey, North Dakota, Dr. Oehler's well rounded medical education came from Kansas University Medical Center, where he was trained in several specialties and gained the broad-based knowledge that would become his hallmark. Graduating from medical school in 1958, Dr. Oehler put his skills to work for his country, enjoying a distinguished career in the United States Navy.

Named to the staff at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System in 1966 and Board Certified in 1973, Dr. Oehler's practice was dedicated to the entire patient. In his four decades at Salinas Valley Memorial, his surgical and family practice touched the lives of thousands in the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Oehler's specialty was the patient, his practice in the operating room, at bedside or in his medical office. Regardless of the location, his knowledge and experience touched and saved lives.

While witness to many changes in medical techniques and styles, Dr. Oehler showed a remarkable ability to adapt, and to keep his focus on patient-based medicine. His legacy will long remain a testament to that focus.

Dr. Gerald Oehler became Physician Emeritus at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on June 1, 2007. His dedication and professionalism will remain as an inspiration to all who follow.

HONORING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD J. McCUE FOR HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE (NCIS)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Supervisory Special Agent Richard J. McCue. After 25 years of distinguished and honorable service, he retires this month from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

In addition to his service with the NCIS, Mr. McCue has also served his country as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Since September 11th, Mr. McCue has volunteered for several dangerous overseas assignments, including being part of the first NCIS team in the nation to provide Protective Services support to Coalition Provisional Authority leadership in southern Iraq. During this tour, Mr. McCue conducted over one hundred missions in active combat zones, directly encountering both active fire and several Improvised Explosive Devices.

Among numerous honors and achievements, Mr. McCue was requested by name to formalize the Surveillance Detection Mission for U.S. Forces within Kuwait, as well as forces transitioning to the Theater of Operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition, Mr. McCue volunteered to serve as a forensic expert on the investigative/recovery team at the Pentagon after the September 11th attacks, providing both his expertise and compassionate care for the victims of that attack. In honor of this selfless service, Mr. McCue received the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal as well as the Expeditionary Service Medal.

Please join me in recognizing Richard McCue for his distinguished service to the people of the United States. We wish him well on his retirement.

EATHAN HOLTZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eathan Holtz who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Eathan Holtz is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eathan Holtz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Eathan Holtz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SI FRUMKIN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to join my colleague HOWARD BERMAN in paying tribute to Si Frumkin, who passed away in Los Angeles, California on May 15, 2009. For more than 40 years, Si was a singularly focused and steadfast voice fighting for equality, freedom and dignity. As a Holocaust survivor, he heard a call of duty and answered it with a passionate resolve to not rest until the injustices he identified had been addressed. He was a role model, a mentor, and a friend we will miss.

Born in 1930 in the town of Kaunas, Lithuania, Simas Frumkinas came from an affluent family that was not particularly religious or politically active. When the Germans invaded Kaunas in 1941, and the Communists took over his father's business, the Frumkin family was herded into a Jewish ghetto. The ghetto was liquidated in 1944, and Si and his father were sent to the Dachau concentration camp where he and his father were forced laborers in a Nazi aircraft hangar. Si was just 13 years old.

Si's father passed away just 20 days before Dauchau was liberated in 1945. When the camp was liberated by the U.S. Army, he went on to study in Switzerland, England, and Venezuela, where he was reunited with his mother before graduating from New York University in 1953. Soon after, he arrived in Los Angeles, where he took over a textile company—Universal Drapery Fabrics—and earned a master's degree in History at night at the California State University campus in Northridge.

As he became aware of the repression of Soviet Jews in the early 1960s, Si leapt into action, beginning a relentless journey as a founding father of the Soviet Jewry movement and becoming a mentor and ally on behalf of Soviet Jews. He brought up a young student to UCLA and that student went on to become Los Angeles City Councilman (now County Supervisor) Zev Yaroslavsky. In 1968, he formed the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews and excelled in using unconventional methods to bring attention to the issue. When the Bolshoi ballet performed in Los Angeles, Si wrote up fake programs encouraging patrons to enjoy the ballet but adding a message about the oppression. When President Nixon was visited by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Si released 5,000 balloons with the message, "Let My People Go." With candlelight rallies attended by tens of thousands, letter-writing campaigns and other grass roots efforts, he enlisted a generation into action.

Once the Iron Curtain fell and thousands of Jews were permitted to leave, Si turned his focus to assist in resettling those who arrived in Los Angeles and Southern California. He became the liaison for the émigrés on everything from résumé workshops to clothing drives.

In 1992, Si began publishing "Graffiti for Intellectuals," a bi-weekly newsletter with information and commentary on politics, social issues, and challenges in the community. With candor, conviction and often a touch of humor, his columns expounded on the needs of Holocaust survivors seeking restitution and reparations, the plight of Israel, the fight against anti-Semitism, and other Jewish causes.

In the face of fierce resistance, Si never relented or grew too tired to persevere. His creativity and sincerity inspired people to action. While we mourn his absence, we pay tribute with an enduring debt of gratitude for his remarkable courage and vision. His tremendous legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Si is survived by his wife, Ella, his son, Michael, and two grandchildren. Ella, who always stood solidly beside him and encouraged him to carry on the cause, deserves recognition as an equal partner in his lifelong achievements. Those who knew Si well can attest to his enduring love for his family and his avid collection of chess sets.

We ask that our colleagues join us as we celebrate the remarkable life and tremendous contributions of Si Frumkin. Si was living proof that one person can change the course of history.

CONGRATULATING PAM BRUNETTE ON HER EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Pamela Brunette, a woman who has selflessly devoted her time, talent and energy to our Marines. Her impact on the lives of our troops and their families is immeasurable, the result of her unflagging efforts to boost their morale during some of the most trying periods of their lives.

Like so many, Pam was shocked by the assault on our country that took place on September 11, 2001. She took positive action in a way that would help those sent to defend our lives, liberty and honor. Pam learned about Adoptaplatoon, whose mission it is to "Support America's men and women deployed abroad, while they protect our country." Believing in this mission, Pam joined Adoptaplatoon to support those who sacrifice so much on our behalf.

Pam first adopted a platoon of soldiers who were deployed to Kosovo and Bosnia. As part of her service to these men and women, Pam communicated with them regularly, through letters and emails, bringing a glimpse of "home" to many of them. Even as Pam's adoptees returned from duty, she continued her efforts by caring for newly deployed service members.

When Marines from Engineer Company B deployed for Iraq for the first time in 2003,